

"Man-on-the-Street", Austin, Texas, December 9, 1941

AFS 6369B

John Henry Faulk: Mr. Calderon, when did you hear about Japan declaring war on the United States?

Luis Calderon: First, this Sunday evening, I come through town and I hear the voice call, hollering "Extra" and I stop in my car and buy the extra and find out what is the "Extra" means means and I read Japan has declared war for the United States and —

John Henry Faulk: What did you think when you read that?

Luis Calderon: Well, I think it's going to be bad, but they have to be ??? just kind of push us into the war.

John Henry Faulk: Well, you think it's Japan's fault then, do you?

Luis Calderon: Yeah, yeah. We need to whip that Japan, too.

John Henry Faulk: *[laughs]*. You're ready to whip them, huh?

Luis Calderon: *[laughs]* Yes, I'm ready anytime that Uncle Sam needs me, I'll be ready to go.

John Henry Faulk: What about — have you got any sons that might go?

Luis Calderon: I've got two sons, one is *[raised (?)]* to already, and the other is *[raised (?)]* too, but he'll be ready anytime that Uncle Sam needed him. I'm willing to let him go for this is a free country and we have to fight for this country and try living free.

John Henry Faulk: What do you think about the United States? Do you think it's entirely right in this war, do you —

Luis Calderon: Sure, sure I believe it's right —

John Henry Faulk: You think Mr. Roosevelt should have declared war on them?

Luis Calderon: Mm, hmm *[affirmative]*. Because, the United States is the only country been stayed out of war. We've been holding out of war long enough now. They tried jumping on him like they was somebody coming to my house and tried jumping me, I have to do something. I have to defend my

family, I have to be careful with my family and my home and defend my ??? United States. Well, Uncle Sam, has got a right to go right away and don't give no time, don't give them no more chances.

John Henry Faulk: Do you think we're going to win the war? Do you think we —

Luis Calderon: I hope and I believe that we going to win. I hope that we going to win ??? Mexico is ??? too. And we had like twelve or countries that's going to help the United States and I believe we whip that —

John Henry Faulk: What do you think about Mexico helping the United States out, do you think that's —

Luis Calderon: ??? help is right. It was right to help because they've been here as neighbors and they get along all right. All the Mexicans been treated right in here the United States and I believe Mexico was right to help them.

John Henry Faulk: Good, I'm glad of that. How long have you lived in the United States?

Luis Calderon: I've been lived since 1913.

John Henry Faulk: Raised all your children.

Luis Calderon: Raised all my children here, married and —

John Henry Faulk: Glad you're here.

Luis Calderon: Yeah, I'm glad. I'm glad I'm here.

John Henry Faulk: What do you reckon about the Japanese? Why do you suppose they started this war with the United States?

Luis Calderon: Well, you know they started war because they, I believe, they try keeping the United States to helping Brits and Russia. That's what I — I ????. So they's keeping busy in here, don't take no ammunition. No help over there. And give a chance to Germany to whip Russia.

John Henry Faulk: Do you think Germany got Japan into the war?

Luis Calderon: Well, that's what I thought. I believe it push them in so it helped them.

John Henry Faulk: Well, let me ask you something. You said you wanted, you think we ought to whip Japan. Why? What's the matter with Japan?

Luis Calderon: Well, they didn't have a right to jump on that Philippines —

John Henry Faulk: ???

Luis Calderon: — and Hawaii and now he kill so many American citizens. They didn't have the right to do that.

John Henry Faulk: Well, did you expect them to go, did you think that they were going to start a fight?

Luis Calderon: Yeah.

John Henry Faulk: You were, you were expecting that all along?

Luis Calderon: Sure.

John Henry Faulk: How'd you know?

Luis Calderon: Well, I've been hearing everybody say — what do you call them, Congress, they say declared war and I believe they're right to do that.

John Henry Faulk: Well, let me ask you, Mr. Calderon, what about the people that you work with, the people that you know, goes to your church, the other Mexicans, of those people that at least were born in Mexico. I guess many of them are citizens the United States now, but they speak Spanish. What do you think about them? How do they feel about it?

Luis Calderon: Well all of the other Mexicans, they're all my friends and they say they are ready to go and help the United States and serve this cause. ??? I was born in Mexico myself too, but I raised my kids and I have to fight for my country with my kids. I know Mexico is my country, but I left my country and as long as I've been living here and they've been treating me good. I'm an American citizen now and I just call this my country. And I'm just ready to fight, we had some talk with some of my friends and they said we had no rights. I told them Mexico is in already too, if we got to Mexico we'd have to go. And as long as we are living here, we are are ready to go too.

John Henry Faulk: That's what I think about it. Mexican people in the United States the way I think they feel. They don't love Japan too much.

Luis Calderon: Mm hmm [*negative*]. No, Japan don't try making, putting with Mexico, get together with Mexico and Hitler is going to come to the United States, but Mexico don't let him.

John Henry Faulk: No.

Luis Calderon: They try pretty good a while, but three or four, more than ten years I believe, they told Mexico anytime you want to get these four states, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and California used to belong to Mexico. And Japan try to put Mexico, and tell them they'd help anytime they wanted to —

John Henry Faulk: Get those states back.

Luis Calderon: Get those states back.

John Henry Faulk: They'd end up and belonging up by blowing Japan though ???.

Luis Calderon: And Mexico don't want it. ???

John Henry Faulk: ??? [??? part of the United States (?).]

Luis Calderon: Mm, hmm [*affirmative*]. Texas, and I'm glad of it too.

John Henry Faulk: Well, what about St. Edwards, how do they feel out there?

Luis Calderon: [*laughs*] Oh man. Oh boy, you know. They were here yesterday, fifteen hundred students from college registered yesterday —

John Henry Faulk: [No (?).]

Luis Calderon: — and they're ready to go to the war. And some of the guys and some of the boys and I asked them, "How do you feel?" They said, "Well I believe I'm going to quit school and go to the war too. I'd like to go." About four or five they're going to quit school and go register for army. [*sound fades*]